

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE DEVELOPMENT OF A SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETER  
LICENSURE SYSTEM.

WHEREAS, House Joint Memorial 1 of the first session of  
the forty-fifth legislature in 2001 requested that a study be  
conducted of the feasibility of developing standards for  
licensure of sign language interpreters in the state by the  
New Mexico school for the deaf and the commission for deaf  
and hard-of-hearing persons; and

WHEREAS, the study demonstrated the need to pursue the  
establishment of a licensure system for interpreters for the  
deaf and hard-of-hearing; and

WHEREAS, the study demonstrated the licensure system  
should be regulated and administered by a regulating board  
established under the regulation and licensing department;  
and

WHEREAS, access to quality communication and information  
impacts access to health care, vocational and business  
opportunities, higher and continuing education, governmental  
services and full participation in the democratic process, as  
well as all other aspects of community life; and

WHEREAS, a collaborative effort between the New Mexico  
school for the deaf and the public education department  
resulted in the education of the deaf and hard-of-hearing

1 2003 task force report, "Toward Brighter Futures"; and

2 WHEREAS, the 2003 task force report called for "the  
3 provision of communicatively fluent staff, adult role models  
4 and communication-accessible program components and  
5 resources, including skilled interpreters"; and

6 WHEREAS, the forty-sixth legislature of New Mexico  
7 passed the "Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Children's Educational  
8 Bill of Rights", which stated the public education  
9 department, the New Mexico school for the deaf and the  
10 department of health are to ensure that "...these children  
11 have what every other child takes for granted, including an  
12 educational environment in which their language and  
13 communication needs are fully addressed and developed and in  
14 which they have early, ongoing and quality access to planned  
15 and incidental communication opportunities.";

16 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE  
17 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that a state evaluation and licensure  
18 system for sign language interpreters is needed; and

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the commission for deaf and  
20 hard-of-hearing persons, the public education department, the  
21 regulation and licensing department and the New Mexico school  
22 for the deaf be requested to collaborate to develop and  
23 recommend a sign language licensure mechanism for the state;  
24 and

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the recommendations

1 resulting from this collaboration be reported no later than  
2 January 30, 2006 to the appropriate legislative committee as  
3 deemed by the New Mexico legislative council; and

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
5 sent to the commission for deaf and hard-of-hearing persons,  
6 the public education department, the regulation and licensing  
7 department and the New Mexico school for the deaf. \_\_\_\_\_

SJM 78  
Page 3

8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25